Classic Lane, the improviser for the headline of the moment, is preserved in FBI Headquarters files. The FBI operates the world's largest vacuum cleaner. I t gelans everything, keeping out of Headquarters files and in the field offices what it does not want to find in Headquarters but preserving for ready access what the political operators of the Bureau, those who plant stories in the papers, may fine use for.

The FBI likes his September 12,1969 interview with Muhammed Speaks so much ~~they~~ ~~stored copies~~ it was not content to keep a clipping in its Lane file alone. It made duplicates for one of its files on the assassination of President Kennedy, 62-109060. ~~and stilll another for an "administrative" file of the 62 series, 109060.~~

I can h ardly fault the FBI for this. The item is precious.

It typifies the irresponsible - the utterly unreasonable if not irrational - vaporizing of the self-promoting. It is the kind of file the FBI can retrieve for the public ridicule of all those who criticse it, not just those who do these weird things. It also represent the kind of record the FBI's legislative people can flash with the congress to persaude members that those who criticse the FBI ~~ought not be~~ do not know what they are talking about.

Speaking of Chrles Stephens Lane, always with the personal promoun, always if subtly presenting himself as reincarnated Sherlock Holmes, declared Stephers was "the most astute of all the witnesses I found."

This is the same ~~witness~~ Stephens who was witness to nothing, who was so drunk the cabbie who customarily hauled him to liquor stores when he was drunk would not take him that day, the very same Stephens about whom Lane was to boast in 1976 that his then common-law wife had told Lane in what he represented as an exclusive, tape-recorded interview that Stephens was not even home when Dr. King was killed.